

STATINTL

Spying Made Easy

The tale of Col. Stig Wennerstrom, the Swedish air attaché convicted of spying for the Soviet Union, would be amusing if it were not for its disclosure of dangerous lapses of security in Washington. For five years Wennerstrom traveled the capital cocktail and junket circuits, and because he was the representative of a friendly neutral power he was able to win friends and pick brains both inside and outside the Government. He had two specialties: he cultivated high-ranking officials, the better to impress their subordinates when he wanted a choice morsel of information; he also (he says) charmed wives, thereby gaining access to the society and the secrets of the Fort Knox of Western intelligence. Much of the information he sold the Russians came from conversations during junkets to defense establishments, and he gleaned more from classified documents unaccountably placed at his disposal. The Wennerstrom case exposes incredible gullibility and naiveté; it also seems to show that too many American faces are equipped with flapping tongues.